

09/112,777 (Silverbrook et al.)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|

09/112,777 07/10/98 SILVERBROOK

K ART24-US

TM02/0906

EXAMINER

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AIR MAIL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2672

14

DATE MAILED: 09/06/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/112,777 | SILVERBROOK ET AL. |
| | Examiner Motilewa A. Good-Johnson | Art Unit 2672 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application, filed on 07/10/1998; Amendment A, filed on 10/30/2000; Preliminary Amendment B, filed on 07/11/2001.
2. Claims 1-4, 7 are pending in the case. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled.
3. The present title of the application is “Producing Automatic *Painting* Effects in Images” (as originally filed).

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/11/2001 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arias, U.S. Patent Number 5,966,134, "Simulating Cel Animation and Shading", class 345/431, 10/12/1999, filed on 06/28/1996.

As per independent claim 1, a **method of automatically processing an image comprising the steps of : locating within the image, features having a high spatial variance by: thresholding and skeletonizing the image to produce an image comprising single pixel width . . . ; Arias discloses in col. 9, lines 1-6 and in col. 10, lines 31-39; discarding features of the produced image having a size less than a predetermined size; Arias discloses in col. 12, lines 60-67; and stroking the image with a series of brush strokes emanating from remaining features of the produced image.** Arias discloses in col. 8, lines 15-30.

However, it is noted that Arias fails to disclose brush strokes per se. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that in paint rendering, brush strokes are a commonly used tool.

With respect to dependent claim 2, . . . **brush strokes have decreasing sizes near important features of the image.** Arias discloses in col. 8, lines 25-30.

With respect to dependent claim 3, . . . **brush strokes include opacity and bump maps for added realism.** Arias discloses in col. 13, lines 25-44 .

With respect to dependent claim 4, . . . **the position of a predetermined portion of brush strokes undergoes random jittering.** Arias discloses in col. , lines .

With respect to dependent claim 7, . . . **discarding located features having a size of less than 20 contiguous pixels.** Arias discloses in col. 12, lines 60-67.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 and 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Motilewa Good-Johnson whose telephone number is 703-35-3939.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi, can be reached at 703-305-4713.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Art Unit: 2672

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Motilewa Good-Johnson
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2672

Jeffrey A. Brier
JEFFERY BRIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER